



# AETC News Clips

## AFIT Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio



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### **BRAC wants data on moving school to AFIT**

By [Timothy R. Gaffney](#)

Dayton Daily News

**RIVERSIDE** | A member of the independent Base Realignment and Closure Commission Tuesday asked local leaders to analyze the potential cost of moving a military school from California to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Commissioner Samuel Skinner made the request after the Dayton Development Coalition presented an analysis stating it would cost rather than save the Defense Department money to merge the Air Force Institute of Technology with the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey.

"You've done a very detailed analysis of what it would cost if all these people go west. I'd like also to know what it would cost if NPS came east," Skinner said near the end of a half-hour meeting with community leaders at Stebbins High School.

AFIT supporters took Skinner's request as a hopeful sign the commissioners haven't already made up their minds to relocate AFIT, a move that would take away about 500 jobs, 1,000 students and a chunk of the Dayton area's intellectual capital.

"It shows the commission is thinking through all kinds of possibilities," said J.P. Nauseef, chairman and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition.

The coalition is a nonprofit group of business leaders that supports local military installations in the BRAC process.

The meeting followed an afternoon tour of the AFIT campus on Wright-Patterson by Skinner and commissioner Lloyd "Fig" Newton, a retired Air Force general.

The tour resulted from the commission's vote last month to consider merging the schools. Sens. Mike DeWine and George Voinovich, Gov. Bob Taft and U.S. Reps John Boehner, Dave Hobson and Mike Turner tagged along on the tour.

County and local officials, business leaders and university presidents met them at Stebbins for the meeting. A crowd of roughly 400 people wore T-shirts, waved signs and chanted "Save AFIT" as the entourage drove up with a police escort. The Stebbins High School Marching Band played.

"We've had a long, long history with Wright-Patterson. It's vital to the community, and we support it," said Bill Thornton, president and CEO of Miami Valley Hospital. Thornton rode to the rally on one of two buses that carried about 50 hospital employees.

In a letter to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, BRAC Chairman Anthony Principi asked whether the Pentagon had considered merging AFIT with the Navy school and the Defense Language Institute, both in Monterey.

The commission then voted to consider merging the schools but left open the question of where it might occur.

In Tuesday's meeting, coalition members presented facts contending it would actually cost \$7 million more per year to move to Monterey, in part because of higher living costs in California.

The coalition also asserted the move would deprive AFIT students the chance to study close to major Air Force organizations and laboratories, especially the Air Force Research Laboratory.

"Our bottom line is, we believe Ohio and the Dayton region are exactly the right place for AFIT," said John Nowak, head of the coalition's BRAC committee.

The sudden threat to AFIT has partly overshadowed other BRAC issues facing the area.

One is a recommendation that would move more than 2,000 information technology jobs — possibly more than 4,000, according to the coalition — from Wright-Patterson to Hanscom Air Force Base in Boston, Mass.

But participants were careful to not raise the Hanscom issue on Tuesday.

"This trip (by the BRAC commissioners) was not about Hanscom. It was about AFIT," Turner said. Raising other issues might have "undermined" efforts to defend AFIT, he said.

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But the rally did include scores of people who donned bright yellow T-shirts bearing the slogan "Save Dayton DFAS" — the Defense Finance and Accounting Service station in Kettering, which the Pentagon has recommended closing.

Prior to touring AFIT, the commissioners spent Tuesday morning at the DFAS center in Columbus, one of three locations where the Pentagon wants to consolidate all the DFAS activities.

The Kettering station would close, eliminating 425 jobs.

"We support AFIT, but we also support DFAS, and we feel we're getting a little buried in the publicity," said Kettering Mayor Marilou Smith.

Kettering is recovering from the 1996 closure of the Defense Electronics Supply Center as a result of a previous BRAC. The closure cost Kettering income tax revenues from 2,300 federal jobs.

With room to add 600 jobs at the Kettering station, consolidating its work elsewhere "doesn't make sense," Smith said.

**Find this article at:** <http://www.daytondailynews.com/localnews/content/localnews/daily/0803afit.html>

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### ***Reasons to keep AFIT at WPAFB***

By the Dayton Daily News

The Dayton Development Coalition is urging the BRAC commission to retain AFIT at Wright-Patterson rather than merging it with the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. Here are the coalition's points:

- The Pentagon rejected similar ideas in preparing its BRAC recommendations
- A scoring of the two institutions to compare their military values contained many factual errors
- A Pentagon cost analysis that showed a \$5 million yearly savings by consolidating the schools at Monterey was flawed and should have shown a net yearly cost of \$7 million
- AFIT students would lose the synergy of working with a number of major organizations
- The Air Force would incur higher cost-of-living expenses by sending AFIT students to Monterey

Find this article at: <http://www.daytondailynews.com/localnews/content/localnews/daily/0803afitbox.html>

*Air Force Times*

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# AETC News Clips

## Altus AFB, Okla.



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## Contracting squadron vital to small business

*by Master Sgt. Eugene Bird  
Public Affairs superintendent*

The 97th Contracting Squadron earned honorable mention in their run for the the 2004 Secretary of the Air Force Small Business Program Award.

While the amount of contracts awarded at Altus Air Force Base doesn't constitute enough to merit a full-time small business specialist, the squadron's team of 34 professionals has been effective, according to Michael Pierce, director of business operations.

The squadron consists of a half-military, half-civilian team whose accomplishments, listed in the Air Force special achievement award package, were measured in exceeded goals.

While the base's goal in fiscal year 2004 was to award 4.5 percent of contract dollars to companies in historically underutilized businesses zones, also known as HUB Zones, 31.1 percent of available dollars was awarded to this business sector.

HUB Zones are regions where the average salary is 20 percent lower than the state's typical salary or where the unemployment is 40 percent higher than the state's normal.

For the second consecutive year, the squadron exceeded its goal to award to



The 97th Contracting Squadron exceeded its goals in 2004.

disadvantaged businesses more than 10 percent.

In particular, contract amounts won by women-owned businesses rose five percent in 2004.

In all, nearly 80 cents of every dollar available for which small business could compete was awarded to small businesses here.

The positive trend at Altus comes at a time when the Small Business Administration is developing strategies to unbundle many federal contracts so that the services required of the new smaller contracts can be handled by a variety of small businesses.

According to the SBA, 23 percent of federal contracts were awarded to small businesses in 2004.





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Small businesses account for two-thirds of new jobs created in the United States and over half the goods and services produced in the country, according to the Small Business Administration.

“Although we are the second smallest operational contracting office within the command, our relentless pursuit to develop healthy business relationships with local and regional small business owners has resulted in robust business partnerships,” Pierce said.

Altus Air Force Base is located in a rural farming community, and the location makes it challenging to locate resources to meet the base’s significant services and construction requirements, according to Pierce.

“The current health and positive direction we are enjoying with our small business initiatives result from the unwavering commitment of our wing’s leadership, community leaders, the City of Altus and the local vocational-technical school, the Southwest Technology Center,” Pierce said.

“We are an integral part of mission support, totally focused on the base’s mission of top-notch aircrew and boom operator training, providing acquisition support for commodities, construction design and services requirements.”



# AETC News Clips

## Luke AFB, Ariz.



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### Military must support *all* religions

#### To the editor:

I wonder if you at the *View* are into some type of witchcraft yourselves, printing yet another letter of hate from Delia Thibodeau. You certainly “know how to stir the cauldron,” so to speak.

Does Ms. Thibodeau realize that the military supports a chapel on base, priests, rabbis, pastors (chaplains) and actually holds all types of religious services, including making arrangements for Muslims — all at taxpayers’ expense? Military personnel need mentors of their own faith.

I request that people call and write the base and our members of Congress to demand a high priest or priestess serve the needs of pagan military personnel. It’s just not fair.

By the way, she got answers in a Friday *View* after her last letter, in which opinions ran 10 to one against her.

**Greg Lansberry**  
Avondale



# AETC News Clips

## Sheppard AFB, Texas



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**03-Aug 05**

### Putting best foot forward

#### Commissioner checks out base

**By Michael Hines/Times Record News**  
**August 2, 2005**

Her affection for Wichita Falls just can't figure into the final decision a retired general makes about job losses at Sheppard Air Force Base, she said here Monday.

Sue Ellen Turner, who spent three years in the mid-'70s in the School of Health Care Sciences at the base, toured the installation as a member of the Base Realignment and Closure commission.

"Sheppard Air Force Base really does have a place in my heart," she said. "Will it influence anything? No. It can't."

The Pentagon has recommended cutting 2,600 jobs at the base by eliminating medical training that involves no patient contact and moving the program to San Antonio.

The BRAC commission's report will be given to President Bush by Sept. 8. Bush has until Sept. 23 to accept the list or send it back to the commission for revisions. Congress must vote either for or against the plan as an entire package later in the year.

Community members did not show up in great numbers to greet the general on Monday. Some estimates placed the number with signs and/or T-shirts touting the base at between 50 and 70 at one point on the route. Other estimates put the number in the hundreds scattered along Airport Drive. However, about 450 traveled to San Antonio two weeks ago to attend the BRAC commission's hearing and Wichita Falls' presentation.

Base and city officials conducted a tour of the base for Turner, who visited Sheppard as part of an information-gathering effort by the commission that will decide the fate of dozen of military installations around the country.

Turner arrived at 7 p.m. Sunday and began her tour at 8 a.m. Monday. The roughly three-hour visit included a look at medical training facilities. Members of the local Military Affairs Committee followed close behind Turner's vehicle, but had a little interaction with her. Kay Yeager, MAC chairwoman, said she was happy to have gotten the chance.

"We felt like we had to have that happen," she said. "I thought it went really well."

Tim Chase, president of the Board of Commerce & Industry, said the committee got a chance to present some new insights into the BRAC decisions. That information will also go before BRAC staff in Washington when MAC members meet with them. Chase declined to say what the data was or when the meeting would take place.

"We were able to give her a preview of what we'll be saying when we go to Washington," he said. "We don't have everything nailed down just yet."

*Times Record News*

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Turner said she was also able to get some new insights into information relayed to her by BRAC staff members who toured the base earlier. Turner said she used her visit to look into data regarding moving missions from Sheppard and the costs of making those moves.

Under initial BRAC recommendations, Sheppard was expected to lose about 2,600 personnel directly, causing a total job-loss of 4,400 workers and possibly an economic wallop ranging from \$80 million to \$120 million. But other scenarios have put the loss at 1,700 jobs directly and 2,500 total for the community. That could mean an economic hit in the range of \$36 million to \$60 million.

Back in June, Commissioner James Hill was set to visit Sheppard, but mechanical problems on his plane forced him to cancel. So while BRAC staff arrived, Hill did not.

At that time, local leaders had urged residents to gather near the base to show their support. Witnesses put the number of participants between 300 and 700 people.

City leaders once again asked residents to line the road to Municipal Airport at 11 a.m. Monday. The result wasn't as impressive this time, said John Snyder, a 35-year-old hospital employee.

"As many as came out last time and as many as went down to San Antonio (for a statewide meeting with BRAC), I thought there would have been a lot more," he said.

He and Shirley Dawson, 36-year-old cashier at the base, said 75 to 90 people showed. They both attended the first gathering. Despite this latest gathering's size, Dawson said she was still happy to go.

"It was worth it," she said.

Andrew Amaya, 34-year-old painter, endured a broken foot to drive 10 miles to attend, hitting the gas with one foot and braking with the other. When he arrived, he was underwhelmed.

"I didn't see that many people out here," he said. "I thought it would be packed."

He also knows what's at stake.

"What it would do is, most of these people are buying brand new houses. We're painting the brand new houses," he said. "If they stop buying the houses, we have no painting to do."

He was also disappointed at not getting to see Turner as she rode to the airport after her news conference. Snyder and Dawson got to glimpse Turner.

"It was really disappointing," Dawson said.

*Times Record News*

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